AMENDMENTS to the CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for delay paced proxy bidding ~~by proxy in an automated offering or auctioning system on behalf of a bidder or participant,~~ comprising ~~the steps of~~:

    providing a bid parameter set having a plurality of proxy bid parameters, said proxy bid parameters indicating proxy conditions for at least one offering or auction to which proxy automatic bidding is to be made in an automated offering or auctioning system on behalf of an auction bidder, at least one of which parameters includes a counter bid delay value, said proxy bid parameters being specified by said bidder;

    automatically checking at least one current bid level in a bid data store of an offering or auction system, said data store having a plurality of bids from auction participants, said bids being separated in time to form a pace of bidding;

    determining [[if]] that any of said proxy conditions have been met including that said current bid level reflects a current bid placed by an auction participant other than the ~~participant~~ bidder for which automated proxy bidding is being performed; [[and]]

    placing a counter bid into at least one auction responsive to said proxy conditions being met and a time following or upon the elapse of said counter bid delay from a time of placement of said current bid[[.]] ; and

    wherein said steps of automatic checking, determining and placing a counter bid produce delay paced proxy bidding by specifying a counter bid delay value that does not escalate said pace of bidding within said auction system by automated placing of said counter bid.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of determining [[if]] that any proxy conditions have been met comprises determining [[if]] that said current bid level is below an indicated bid maximum parameter in said proxy bid parameters.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said step of determining [[if]] that said current bid level is below an indicated bid maximum parameter further comprises determining [[if]] that a specified time during an auction open period has not been reached yet such that a specified maximum bid may be placed before such specified time.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said step of determining [[if]] that said current bid level is below an indicated bid maximum parameter further comprises determining [[if]] that a specified time prior to an auction close time has been reached such that a specified maximum bid may be placed after such specified time.

Claims 5 - 15 (canceled).